

The Calloused Digit

by

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The Study Of The History Of The End Of The World, Part 1

Deep within their hearts and minds, a significant number sense that the world is careening towards something that is both catastrophic yet wondrous all at the same time. Not exactly sure of what that is, many attempt to get a handle on this feeling of apprehensive expectation by conceptually referring to the stimuli and data provoking this emotional response as “the End Times”. With advances in technology just as likely to make our lives more complicated as convenient, it is understandable for contemporary man to assume that this is the first era in the history of the species to experience this particular variety of spiritual distress. However, the perspective of history shows how this cognitive distress is nothing new but has been an inherent component of Western civilization derived from that tradition's Judeo-Christian foundation even among segments of it that would no longer directly identify with that particular set of religious presuppositions. In *The Last Days Are Here Again: A History Of The End Times* Richard Kyle begins his analysis by starting off with a definition of a few of the terms vital for understanding this particular area of theological study but which are often muddled as a result of their similarity (18-23). The first term defined by Kyle is “apocalyptic” or “apocalypse”. He defines that as a body of literature unveiling a divine secret in a manner that presents a catastrophic narrative describing a cosmic struggle between good and evil that often concludes in a decisive battle or deterministic series of events. Kyle proceeds to make a distinction between the terms “apocalyptic” and “eschatological”. In his use of the term, Kyle defines eschatology as “a study of the last things” of which the apocalyptic is a subset concerned more with impending doom.

Kyle is also careful to make a distinction between apocalypticism and millennialism. He does note that there is often overlap between the two.

However, not all professing apocalypticism necessarily believe in millennialism and not all millenarians are apocalypticists. For example, theologians professing a postmillennial return of Christ do not usually believe in apocalypticism. Instead such exegetes believe conditions will improve gradually with the Second Advent occurring only after a near complete Christianization of the world. Adherents of certain forms of secularist catastrophism such as the nuclear freeze or environmentalist movements warn of an impending doom but do not necessarily foresee a desired golden age coming about afterwards should the horror that they warn against actually transpire.

A primary question raised is what is it about Western civilization that makes those steeped in it --- be they explicitly religious, secular, or somewhere along this spectrum --- susceptible to apocalyptic thinking? The first factor leading to the allure of an apocalypse is the pervasive insistence throughout Christian theology that Christ will indeed one day bodily return to Earth. Thus, at its heart, the Christian faith is by definition a millennial religion. For whatever reason in the goodness of His providence, God decided it was best to reveal in His word more of a symbolic outline of the conditions surrounding the return of His Son rather than detailed specifics.

Often it is the aspiration of man to desire more knowledge than he was intended or even capable of handling. That has resulted in those drawn to these particular passages of Scripture referring to the consummation of all things often undertaking an attempt to fill in what the human mind might perceive as gaps in our understanding. Such can serve a role if it draws the believer into a close study of the revered text for the purposes of deepening the understanding of the God

supernaturally inspiring these works. However, the result can be deleterious if the outcome of that study is the confusion and unnecessary fear that often surrounds apocalyptic speculation if basic presuppositions such as no man knowing the day or hour as stated in Matthew 24:36 are not adhered in the rush to discover what is believed to be some new prophetic insight.

The second factor that can lead to an undue emphasis on the apocalyptic is the philosophy of history underlying much of Western thought. Such is derived from Christian assumptions, in particular those relating to the doctrine of Christ's return and those events leading to the commencement of eternity. Of the Western linear view of history, Kyle writes, "Rather, history moves from one event to the next until it reaches its final goal (22)."

While this view allows for repetitive themes and patterns, unlike the cyclical philosophy of history more characteristic of Eastern religions, the Judeo-Christian model does not hold to what amounts to a reincarnation of events as well as people. Instead, history will come to a decisive conclusion in the final judgment. Interestingly, though the intentions were far from Christian and the attempt to reach its goal marked by disastrous carnage, Communism also adapted a linear conception of history with the

system's ultimate goal a classless utopia after the establishment of such all conflict would ultimately cease.

The scholar focusing upon this area of theological study most also note the distinction between the "apocalyptic" and "eschatological". In his use of the term, Kyle defines eschatology as "a study of the last things" of which the apocalyptic is a subset concerned more with impending doom.

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Proposed Sex Strike Potentially A Secondary Pro-Family Culture War Victory

In light of what is being categorized as the overturn of *Roe v. Wade* by the Supreme Court, leftwing activists are calling for a sex strike until unbridled access to infanticide is once again what the intellectually lazy rhetorically refer to as the law of the land.

These banshees on a sex strike shouldn't have been giving it out anyway given most of them are not married.

The sex strike actually an efficient way to determine the sort of leftist women the discerning man of character doesn't want to get entangled with to that degree in the first place.

The campaign will only impact the carnally reprobate.

However, should a man get caught up in this that may not have taken into consideration what it is that his wife actually believes, the way to countermand the sex strike is to leave the toilet seat up until it's over.

Those impacted by the proposed sex strike are the sorts society does not need reproducing in the first place.

For decades, the notion of the forty year old virgin has been mocked as an object of social ridicule.

In light of the depravity gripping much of American culture, it now seems such people might be the wisest people in any given room.

Leftist Platitudes Won't Stop A Single Shooting

In an initial analysis, many of the platitudes proffered by *Sojourners Magazine* seem well intended.

Yet it is often more that these ultimately fail to address the world as it actually exists in favor of how one might long for it to be.

For example, in recognition of the Texas school massacre, this media outlet distributed as part of its regular email newsletter a poem with the words, "Rise above the fear, speak out loud and clear. For our children, put the weapons away."

The piece ends with the sort of repetition characterizing much Evangelical praise and worship

music where the lyricist apparently runs out of things to say, "We've got to stop the senseless killing."

Yet it must be pointed out seldom are these horrifying incidents interdicted with words alone.

Often, as in the case of Salvavor Ramos, the only way to bring about a successful resolution is through the utilization of the very sorts of weapons that the pious snowflakes at *Sojourners Magazine* agitate to have removed from the hands of free citizens.

Legalist Threatens To Extend Government Control From The Bedroom To The Laundry Room

An online theologian posted "When people make excuses that they have to do laundry and grocery shopping on Sunday, the Lord's Day, because they are too busy to complete this on any other day, they are simply making excuses."

In my reply that there is nothing in Scripture forbidding the doing of laundry on Sunday, this online theologian posted, "I will vote for someone to shut the country down on Sunday and throw violators in prison."

And this person condemns Pat Buchanan and by proxy me as an extremist. This has now gone beyond telling you what you can and can't do in the bedroom.

Apparently there are religious fanatics that want the power to regulate what hours that you can access your laundry room without it result in a Brach Davidian level conflagration.

For that is what is meant by the desire to impose this tyranny with state jackboots.

Pastor Rhetorically Denounces Parachurch Organizations

A pastor remarked that parachurch organizations are parasite organizations.

Parachurch organizations are generally defined as Christian entities that work outside of and/or across denominational boundaries in regards to issues that a traditional church body might not be able to.

Some pursue this manner of ministry because the church has no place for or perhaps even outright refuses such individuals the opportunity to exercise the talents and even the spiritual gifts with which God has imbued such believers.

More importantly, in this particular sermon, the pastor said that he has no problem forbidding those he allows to speak in the pulpit over which he

exercises guardianship from addressing particular topics.

Foremost among these he ranked the broad category of "politics".

From that declaration arises the conundrum from whence will a Christian formulation to these sort of issues be articulated within the church proper if groups not the church are to be just about anathematized?

This pastor on more than one occasion let it be known he has hobnobbed with Fundamentalist luminaries such as Lee Roberson and Jack Hyles.

So when he stated that parachurch organizations are parasite organizations, does the pastor intend to direct such hardline vitriol against The Sword Of The Lord?

***Christianity Today* Values Color Over Character In Terms Of Bibliographic Selection**

A *Christianity Today* article in the July/Aug 2022 issue is urging people to read “Black books”.

Alright, I highly recommend the writings of Thomas Sowell, Walter Williams and Candace Owens.

I won’t “recommend” the works of explicit Leftists.

However, it never hurts to keep those under watch as well so you can understand how such subversives intend to suppress your liberty and swindle your property away from you often through

the formulation of elaborate word games and rhetorical slights of thought.

It is unfortunate that the author of the article did not ask the pastor who justified filthy explicit literature if he was aware of the Biblical text how it is shameful for a man to have long hair.

Might be one thing for a youth to have long hair.

But by the time you are celebrated as the pastor of a particular congregation, one would think such ministers would have been able to make it the barber shop by that point.

Should Activist Demographics Be Allowed To Veto Presidential Runs?

An online theologian insists that Trump should be denied the possibility of a second presidential term because certain activist elements of the Black community found the candidate to be “divisive”.

We are led to believe that Black people constitute about 10% of the population.

Like it or not, there were Black people that voted for Trump.

Thus, the percentage of Black people opposed to him constitute an even smaller percentage of the overall population in terms of ethnicity and electoral preferences.

So unless such a response is over fear of the tendency of this demographic to destroy property

when activists of this extraction fail to get their way, why should the concerns of such individuals be given a disproportionate sway over American politics?

So does this piece of ratiocination proffered for public consideration by this online theologian apply to other contexts?

Should Kamala Harris or Michelle Obama be barred from even running for the Oval Office because a statistically significant number of White people find these political figures “divisive” to the point of harboring animus against the Caucasian majority.

Hit & Run Commentary

We were told we must believe the allegations against Judge Kavanaugh because of the reliability of FBI statistics. As such, does that mean we should believe the FBI regarding Communist infiltration of the Civil Rights and Anti-war movements in the 1960's?

NBA players and owners are forming a coalition to pursue social justice and racial equality. Does that include their exorbitant salaries being surrendered to be redistributed to those that have not achieved a similar level of accomplishment or who have barely even lifted a finger? Because social justice has very little to do with being an individual but rather about being part of a group.

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